

## MR. GRIMES' DEFENCE

His Hearing Begun Before the Common Council Last Night.

## STATEMENT OF HIS ATTORNEYS.

Mr. Munford Reads an Able Paper Relating to the Charges.

## SEVERAL WITNESSES TESTIFY.

Only the Shell Matter Gone Into.

The Accused Claims That the Contract was Honestly Performed—Examination to Continue To-Night.

The Common Council convened in special session last night at 8 o'clock for the purpose of hearing the defence of Mr. John B. Grimes, the Marshall-Ward member, who stands charged with having been interested in an alleged fraudulent contract with the City Gas-Works, and with lending money to the employees of the works at exorbitant rates of interest, and taking orders on their wages for the same, in violation of the ordinances of the city.

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## SPEAKS FOR MR. GRIMES.

Mr. Munford at this point addressed the Council, saying that Captain Wise and himself appeared before that body, not so much as the counsel for the accused, but as his friends, as citizens of Richmond, having at heart the good of the community. "It has been 'thought proper,'" Mr. Munford continued, "in view of the investigation upon which we are about to enter, that some brief statement should be made of the position of Mr. Grimes with reference to the charges which have been preferred against him, and I have been selected to discharge this duty. In the first place, while my associates and myself appear as the counsel for Mr. Grimes, yet we desire to state in the outset that we are not one whit less mindful of the importance of maintaining the fair name of our city, and of seeing that to those who transgress the laws of a jurisdiction, appropriate with their consciences, than are the members of this honorable body before whom we appear. Violations of the city ordinances should not be permitted to pass unrebuked; derelictions of duty on the part of those occupying high positions in the government of the city cannot be condoned without inviting their repetition, and lowering the standard of official responsibility and duty. But while this is true, it is also true that this body should not bring upon one of its members the odium and disgrace of expulsion, unless the offence with which he stands charged has been established; and is of such a heinous character as to warrant this, the maximum punishment which this body can inflict."

## THE TWO INVESTIGATIONS.

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"The special committee in charge of this investigation have submitted their report, and in this report are embodied four charges against Mr. Grimes, which charges he has challenged, and for the defence said report now called upon to answer. It is further provided that he is to 'disprove the truth of the charges so preferred,' and in the event of his failing to do so, he is to be expelled from his membership. Without pausing to allude to the peculiar character of this recommendation, or to the fact that the committee, in its report, for the defence has preferred these charges, now sits in judgment to establish their veracity, we pass to an immediate consideration of the charges referred to. They are four in all by resolution accompanying the report."

## THE ACCEPTANCE OF ORDERS.

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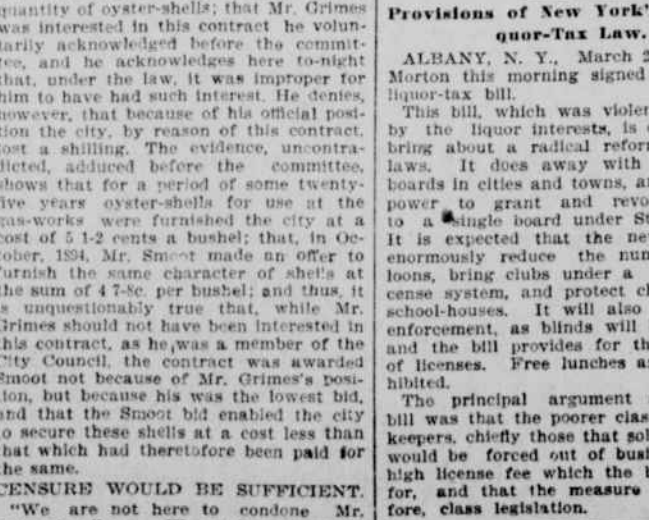
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## THE MORTON BOOM.

Great Preparations for Its Launching in New York To-Day.

## HIG MCKINLEY DEMONSTRATION.

Some Hisses for the Empire State's Executive—Resolutions and Speeches Condemnatory of the Platt and Other Party Machines.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The preparations for the formal launching of the Morton boom were completed to-day, and there is every indication that the sentiment of the Empire State Republicans will be voiced by to-morrow's convention in a manner which will attract the attention of the nation. Notwithstanding the discomfort and uncertainty of traveling at this season of the year, no more thoroughly representative body of Republicans ever met in this State than that which will assemble to-morrow noon to present New York's favorite son as a candidate for President. Hundreds of men who have for many years participated in the councils of the party, and thousands of the younger men, who compose its active working force in their several localities, are gathered here to testify to their admiration for Governor Morton.

New York enters many visiting statesmen and politicians every day, but a political convention is something of a novelty. While all the parties conduct their national and State campaigns from this city, they have been in the habit of going elsewhere to nominate their candidates. Whether or not it was considered by the committee in naming New York as the place of this convention, it is thought fitting to note that the delegates to the convention, and from the social and commercial life of New York, have been so intimately associated should be the starting point of his formal entrance of the field as a presidential candidate.

The holding of a convention in New York is as much of a novelty to the delegates as to the city. Instead of being confined to one or two days, they have a week to choose, and the result is such a scattering of the visitors that it is difficult for them to realize that they are attending a national convention. The South was now preparing for the election of the new President, and the experience of plenty of elbow-room and breathing space. The pleasure of their visit has been somewhat marred, however, by the bad weather. Since noon to-day, the sky has been overcast, and the present appearances, to-morrow will be equally disagreeable.

## SPACIOUS AUDITORIUM.

The Grand Central Palace, at the corner of Lexington avenue and Forty-third street, in which the convention will be held, is a spacious auditorium, with two galleries, and as the seating capacity of 6,000 people.

A portrait of Governor Morton, flanked on either side by the State and city flags, occupies the position of honor above the platform. The other side of the platform is occupied by the delegates to the convention, and the other side of the platform is occupied by the delegates to the convention.

The arrangement of the details of the work to be done by the convention to-day, on account of the indisposition of ex-Senator Platt and Chairman Hackett, of the State Committee, Mr. Platt, whose fall last Friday, remained in his room all day, seeing few visitors. He hopes, however, to be able to attend the convention. Mr. Hackett, who has been confined to his room with a severe cold, says that he will call the convention to order.

The convention will assemble at noon, and after the address of Senator Cornelius H. Hackett, the temporary chairman, and the appointment of committees, a recess will be taken, probably until 8 P. M.

At the evening session, after the report of the Committee on Resolutions, the permanent organization will be effected, with Congressman George R. Southwick as chairman. His address will be followed by the report of the Committee on Resolutions, after which the delegates to the national convention and their alternates will be chosen, and the presidential electors will be nominated. The business of the convention will occupy the remainder of the evening, but, according to the program, the convention will be resolved into a ratification meeting. Ex-Senator J. Sloat Fassett, Edward Lauterback, and other prominent orators of the party, are expected to speak.

## MCKINLEY BOOM.

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